

Notes and Observations

THYMELICUS LINEOLA OCHSENHEIMER (ESSEX SKIPPER) NEAR BATTLE, SUSSEX IN 1974. — I should like to place on record sightings of this butterfly in two localities near Battle, Sussex, about seven miles from the south coast. The first habitat was a clearing in Archer Wood where a rather steep bank, covered with various grasses and flora, ran for about 100 metres before disappearing into scrub, longer grass and small conifers.

On 20th July *Ochlodes venata* L. (Large Skipper), *Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda (Small Skipper) and *T. lineola* were flying in small numbers and I caught several specimens to confirm identification. Incidentally, in late May, *Erynnis tages* L. (Dingy Skipper) and *Pyrgus malvae* L. (Grizzled Skipper) were also on the wing there making a total of five species of skipper for this very small area.

On 21st July a much stronger colony was located in a rough meadow near the site of the historic battle of 1066. *Sylvestris* and *lineola* were flying together there and a sample catch suggested that numbers were about equal for each species. — G. SUMMERS, 23 West Close, Stafford, Staffs., ST16 3TG.

ISOTRIAS RECTIFASCIANA (HAWORTH) IN NORTH KENT. — Whilst walking along the seaward side of the sea wall at Stoke saltmarsh, Kent on 27th May 1974, I disturbed a few specimens of *Isotrias rectifasciana* (Haworth). They were very local, occurring in only two spots along the wall. Bradley, Tremewan and Smith, *British Tortricoid Moths* (1973), state that although the life history appears to be unknown, a pupa had been beaten from hawthorn, the moth frequenting hedgerows containing elm, hawthorn, blackthorn, etc. The nearest hedgerow, consisting entirely of elm, was 200 and 300 yards from the two spots. No moths were beaten from these elms or from the landward side of the sea wall.

It therefore seems likely that the seaward side of the sea wall is their preferred habitat in this locality. The moths flew up from the herbage, soon settling again amongst the mass of *Atriplex* and other plants, one or more of which probably providing the moth's food and shelter.

Is this moth really a "common species in hedges and lanes" as Bradley, Tremewan and Smith suggest, as this is the first time I have met with it in my four years of collecting, neither have I heard of it being taken. Surely a common species which is "easily beaten out during the day" would come to light, so to speak, more than once in four years? It is worthy of note that the two specimens figured by Brian Hargreaves in *British Tortricoid Moths* are also from North Kent. — STEVEN E. WHITEBREAD, 2 Twin Cottage, Grove Farm, Higham, Nr. Rochester, Kent. 1.v.75.